

Over Scrapbook 1897 to 1990

Facts, Features and (occasional) Fallacies
reported in Cambridge Newspapers

summarised by

Mike Petty

Many of these stories were featured in my 'Looking Back' column in the Cambridge News from 1996-2014. They are supplemented by some selections 'From our Old Files' published in the Cambridge Independent Press and other notes.

The complete 'Cambridgeshire Scrapbook' of which this is a small section is published online at bit.ly/CambsCollection

I have digital and other copies of most of the stories summarised.
I hope to publish these online one day. If you would like them in the meantime then please get in touch.

The original volumes are housed in the Cambridgeshire Collection at Cambridge Central Library where there are many other indexes dating back to 1770.

They also have detailed newspaper cuttings files on over 750 topics that have been compiled since the 1960s.

Newspapers sometimes get things wrong. I copy things out incorrectly. Do check

There are a multitude of spelling and layout errors. Please forgive or correct them

News never stops but this file was finished on 31 August 2016.

I will maintain supplements and corrections – contact me for anything you need

Please make what use of these notes that you may. Kindly remember where they came from

See my website – www.mikepetty.org.uk for further notes.

Mike Petty, Stretham

2016

1897 10 27

Over arson cottage, p3

1898 01 14

Over unemployment, p3

1898 03 21

Suicide auctioneer, Over, p3

1900 05 19

Newmarket was overjoyed to hear the good news of the relief of Mafeking and soon Union Jacks were flying from nearly every house and shop. At St Ives the news was heralded by the explosion of detonators and the streets were at once decorated. At Ely a crowd of enthusiasts marched round the streets carrying flags and at Saffron Walden bunting was displayed in all directions. There was a good congregation at Over church service consisting chiefly of men who came direct from their work.

1901 03 06

The inhabitants of Over have shown that they consider the Vicar's action in dismissing the headmaster of the National School unwarrantable. Mr Handley has held the post for nearly 24 years and has endeared himself to the parents of the children by his kindness. A meeting was called to protest over the action of the Vicar, but the solicitor of the National Union of Teachers having talked the whole question over with him the rev gentleman agreed to withdraw his notice of dismissal and give him Mr Handley a good testimonial.

1901 08 10 c

Last Monday was a day which the people of Over are not likely to forget; a public tea to say farewell to Mr Handley upon his resigning the post of headmaster of their National School after 24 years. The whole parish were disgusted at the alleged cause of his resignation and the unfortunate position of the managers of the National School, who were practically dummy managers. However much against their will, they had the privilege of paying, but practically no power. Mr Wayman spoke of the work done in religious subjects; it pained him to think of the un-English treatment to which Mr Handley had been subjected.

1902 07 05

PC Allen said he received an anonymous letter and visited the Admiral Vernon public house at Over on the night of the annual meeting of the Stock Club. He passed through a small bar into the room where there were 40 people. There was a central table and men were playing cards. If he looked through the window it was impossible to see the people who were gaming because people were smoking and there were a number of old high-backed chairs. There was a notice in the taproom prohibiting gaming but none in the room where the meeting was held. The Club paid 5s. for a room from which the landlord was excluded as it was necessary they should not have strangers among them.

1903 06 03

Over libel, p3 *

1904 02 23

Swavesey has been visited by another heavy flood and several householders obliged to get fresh lodgings. The County Council has had temporary footbridges, with handrails, put across the gateways against the Swann pond to keep the footway open to the church and station. One gentleman accidentally pushed the bridge over, and found the water very wet. The road to Over was under two feet of water so they provided a horse and cart to take people across. Hundreds of acres are still under water and they have had so many floods lately that farmers are at their wits' end. 1904 06 03

Over libel, p3

1904 06 29

For a week a sturgeon estimated from eight to 15 feet has disported itself at Over Staunch and successfully resisted all efforts at capture. Vicious lunges with iron-headed quants or poles have failed to reach it, rifle shots have gone astray and a supply of harpoons have proved of no avail. Meanwhile visitors to the staunch are increasing in number. A doctor was making his way when his boat behaved in a most unaccountable way. It tilted and rolled and when the startled occupant saw it was a huge fish which had caused the commotion there was no more pleasure in boating that day.

1904 10 19

An inquiry was held at the Black Bull Inn, Earith on the death of a labourer. He lived at Over and had thirteen children but suffered from nervousness ever since he lost a son aged 21 by small-pox in London. He would often be muttering and talking to himself and sometimes took too much beer. He rambled about from village to village for eight or nine days at a time. A man who was fishing at Over Staunch saw his body on the bed of the river. It was brought to Earith on a plank in a boat and put in the outhouse where it was viewed by the jury. They returned a verdict 'Found drowned'

1906 02 08

The consecration of the land acquired for an additional burial ground at Over was performed by the Bishop. The need for an extra cemetery had been felt for some time, all the spaces in the churchyard having been filled. The trustees of Over town lands at length offered a piece ground adjoining the churchyard. The neighbouring clergy were present in strength and a tea for 120 people was held in the schoolroom. 06 02 08b

1906 03 10

The Red Cow, Landbeach, sold half a barrel and six dozen bottles of beer a week. A share-out club with 65 members met there fortnightly. Within 760 paces there were 47 private houses and four licensed pubs. The British Queen, with better accommodation, was nearby. The population of the village was 413 and allowing for 78 school children, there was a licensed house to every 67 adults. There were cottages at the back which provided facilities for secret drinking, especially as the house stood back 15 yards from the road. But the landlord was a teetotaler who did not encourage this. Also: Carrier's Cart Shelford, Haunch of Mutton & Plough & Horses Waterbeach, Rose & Crown Willingham, Hare & Hounds Over, Dolphin Stapleford, 06 03 10c & d

1906 09 11

The vicar of Over, Rev Thomas Normandale, has accepted the living of Grahamstown, Cape Colony, South Africa and leaves in about six weeks. It comes as a surprise to his congregation as he has only been there two years and previous vicars have stayed much longer: the Rev Galloway stayed 12 years, Rev Dixon 18 and Mr Warren carried out the duties for 30 years. 06 09 11a

1907 01 16

A Fenstanton woman said an Over farmer had gone into the Dolphin, St Ives and alleged an improper connection between herself and a man who was a friend of the family who been in the habit of visiting her home. What made it worse was that she was within a week of her confinement and had not previously had a child for ten years. Now people she met in the street would not look at her. Defendant claimed it was a joke but the words had been uttered angrily with his face thrust into the face of her husband. Five of the jury were in favour of £6 damages and five in favour of one farthing. 07 01 16 a & b

1907 01 17

The County Road Committee decided that roads to Meldreth and Soham railway stations carry a considerable amount of traffic. They should be accepted as main roads when brought up to a proper standard by the District Councils. But the Bourn to St Neots, Over to Willingham and Newmarket to Moulton roads only carried light traffic and should not be taken over. A bend at Kirtling is dangerous

for motors but Lord North is willing to give up a strip for widening the road provided the county erect a fence. 07 01 17c

1907 03 12

The Green Man at Harston consisted of a tap room, bar, parlour, three bedrooms and small kitchen. It sold half a barrel of draught beer, a dozen bottles of beer and one gallon of spirits a week. There was a club-room in the back yard but few members attended. The stables and outbuildings were in bad repair. There were five licenced houses within 615 paces, including the Coach and Horses, Swan and Pemberton Arms Also Three Horse Shoes, Lt Shelford, Duke of Cumberland Over and Milkmaid Willingham 07 03 12a & b

The Milkmaid was one of 13 licenced houses in Willingham and they could do away with half of them, magistrates were told. But there were 100 acres of market gardens all round where a great many men and girls were constantly employed and some came to the house for lunch. The trade had increased since the King William was closed and now did over a barrel a week

Also: Marquis of Granby, Woodman's Arms, Claremont, Golden Fleece; Swaffham Prior Anchor, Harston Green Man, Lt Shelford Three Horseshoes, Over Duke of Cumberland, Willingham Milkmaid - details, Isleham Bell, Fen Ditton Pike & Eel. Bassingbourn Tally Ho, 07 06 29 & a University beagle brakes accident, Over – 08 01 31a

1908 07 31

Twenty-six licensed houses are to close, magistrates decided. They include the Robin Hood at Litlington, Chesterton Long Reach, Swaffham Prior's Uncle Tom's Cabin and the Three Jolly Watermen in Waterbeach Fen. But the Fox in the Wood at Soham and the Cock at Isleham were spared after Police Superintendent Winter failed to appear to give evidence. The licence of the Black Horse at Over was renewed after the Star Brewery appealed. also Barrington Boot & Shoe, Bassingbourn Yew Tree, Steeple Morden Lion, Swaffham Prior John Bull, Bottisham Rose & Crown, Cottenham Six Bells, Oakington Lion and Lamb, Stapleford Hammer & Anvil, Swavesey Chequers, Willingham Little Rose, Castle Camps George, Balsham Ram, Linton White Hart, Cambridge Yorkshire Grey, Old Red Lion, Nine Pines, Thatched House, Baker's Arms, Red Lion, Brewery Tap & Carpenters' Arms. CWN 08 07 31

1909 01 08

Pension day in villages – Cottenham, Swaffham Bulbeck, Histon, Over, Stretham, Isleham, Haddenham, Longstanton – 09 01 08

1909 06 18

A company of cyclists from Swavesey and Over proceeding home on a Sabbath evening encountered two motor cars. There was a wholesale smash in which many pound's work of damage was done to one of the cars and several cycles were seriously knocked about. The driver said the cyclists had been drinking; they seemed to be all over the road. One said he'd been courting and had had twopence-worth of ginger wine; he wasn't drunk, he was in love which is much the same thing. 09 06 18

1909 07 02

A number of village public houses are no longer economic and should close, magistrates were told. They included the Bell at Meldreth, Melbourn's Old Elm Tree, The Royal Oak Fulbourn, The Lamb and Lord Nelson at Cottenham, British Queen Chesterton, Queen's Head Dry Drayton, Over's Hare and Hounds, Balsham Five Awls and Soham's Fox-in-Wood. But the licensee of the Green Man at Swavesey said he did not want to leave it. CWN 09 07 02

1909 07 09

Since 1904 a great deal of restoration work has been carried out at Over church. The organ was restored, a new buying ground enclosed and now they needed to repair the church bells. It is 90 years since they were rehung and Mr Charles Robinson, the oldest inhabitant and churchwarden for 40 years, had been laid inside the big tenor bell by his nurse when it was being done. Now the clappers had worn the insides very flat and they would have to be quarter toned. CWN 09 07 09

1909 07 02

Licencing – includes Meldreth Bell, Melbourn Old Elm Tree, Orwell Red Lion, Fulbourn Royal Oak, Cottenham Lamb & Lord Nelson, Chesterton British Queen, Prince of Wales, Dry Drayton Queen's head, Swavesey Green Man, Over Hare & Hounds, Balsham Five Awls, Soham Fox-in-wood, Cambridge Prince of Wales & White Horse – CWN 09 07 02

1909 08 06

A correspondent calls attention to certain dilapidated cottages on the high road from Swavesey station to Over. These ancient buildings of stud and clay are windowless and door-less, making them the happy hunting ground of schoolchildren and a nightly refuge for tramps. They are being pulled to pieces bit by bit and before long will collapse, he fears. 09 08 06

1909 11 19

Charles Robinson is regarded as the father of the parish of Over and for the whole of his 90 years he has taken an interest in his native parish. He went to see Queen Victoria on her first visit to Cambridge, remembers the hustings on Parker's Piece and vividly recalls travel by the old stage coach. In those days only three newspapers were taken in the parish, now 20 times that number are delivered daily. In 1839 he became landlord of the Admiral Vernon Inn, then an old clay and stud thatched building. It burnt down in 1889 when the present excellent premises were erected. 09 08 20 The position of Ale Conner at Over is still current. The present occupier of this ancient officer was told by the Lord of the Manor's representative when appointed that he should visit the public-houses in the village and taste the beer – though he need not visit all the houses on one night. Both the Ale Connor and Pindar received a shilling on appointment, just as Army recruits used to be given the 'Queen's Shilling' on enlistment in days gone by. CWN 09 11 19

1909 12 10

The popularity of football is on the increase and the young men of Over have formed a football club. On Saturday they played their first match, manfully defying a snow storm. It was the first game of football in the village for many a long year at any rate. The visiting team came from Needingworth and a keenly-fought game resulted in a tie of one goal each, greatly pleasing and surprising their supporters. CWN 09 12 10

1910 01 14

General election – Over, Fen Drayton – 10 01 14m & n,

1910 01 28

A large party of youths, women, girls and boys from Willingham and Over visited Swavesey on Saturday night and greatly disturbed people. They carried flags and a loaf of bread on a fork. They shouted, knocked and rang at the doors of Conservatives, but in two instances visited wrong houses. They tried to pull down flags. At Boxworth End they took a farmyard gate from its hinges and threw it into a garden. The arrival of the aged farmer on the scene prevented further damage 10 01 28g

1910 03 18

Licensing meeting – Over Sow & Pig, Willingham Black Horse, Chesterton White Horse, Comberton Red Lion, Cottenham Boot, Longstanton Red Cow, Milton Three Tuns, Shelford Three Tuns 10 03 18b

1910 04 01

Boys attending Longstanton School accepted a challenge from Swavesey School for a football match. But on arrival they found a strong combination of larger boys from Swavesey, St Ives, Over and Houghton opposing them. An offer by Swavesey for them to discard their smaller boys for some of the spectators to make the teams more equal was dismissed by the little lads who determined to 'stick to their own men'. As expected Longstanton were beaten by nine goals to nil. Eight of the goals were

scored by lads from Houghton and one by a lad from Over. The Longstanton juveniles have only been playing football for a month, a ball having been presented by the schoolmistress. 10 04 01b

1910 05 27

The other morning I had occasion to go to Overcote Ferry. But in Middle Fen I found my way blocked by some 30 feet of sludge whilst on the footpath my progress was blocked by water and mud at the stile. I went through gaps in the hedges and got to the river only to find the footbridge had disappeared. I finally reached Overcote an hour behind time. Cannot our new District Councillor interest himself in the matter? 10 05 27d

1910 09 16

The past week has been marked by an unusual number of fatalities. At Huntingdon a poor woman in a fit of insanity cut the throat of her infant child and then committed suicide. At Littleport a little girl of six years of age was run over by a farm cart and killed. A Stansted carpenter was knocked down by an express train and the body of a St Ives man was found in the river at Huntingdon. The Over mail cart driver blew his nose and immediately fell to the ground dead, probably caused by the rupturing of a blood vessel in the brain 10 09 16c

1910 09 16

A customer who ordered half a ton of coal from an Over coal merchant was much surprised when he arrived at his premises dragging a cart containing the fuel. He sympathetically remarked "I'd only have had a couple of hundred had I known you'd no horse". But the merchant replied he did not trouble to put his horse in for such a trifle as half a ton and that were it not for Over hill he could drawn all of his coal himself from Swavesey railway station. 10 09 16e

1910 10 14

On Sunday evening people coming out of Over church were treated to an amusing incident. A cyclist with a trailer containing two passengers was proceeding along High Street when the trailer broke away and the two occupants were landed on the road with their feet in the air. No one was hurt. 10 10 14e

1910 12 02

The work of re-hanging the Over church bells has been in progress during the past month. Because of the work the chimes were stopped, there was no striking of the clock and the bells were not used for Sunday service. These things were much missed by the parishioners as no one seemed to know the time. The re-opening was marked by a public tea in the schools when nearly 200 of the parish were present and a peal of 720 changes was rung. 10 12 02j

1911 03 17

Over Mutual Insurance Society had been in existence since 1845. Members who paid two shillings a week were entitled to sick pay at the rate of twelve shillings a week for one year, six shillings for another year and three shillings a week for life if illness continued. Five people were now claiming this amount and the Trustees wanted to alter the rules. One read: "No member shall be allowed to work" and another that a member was entitled to three shillings a week for life, whether he was ill or well. The judge said he would like to belong to such a club (Laughter). But there was no provision to alter them 11 03 17c

1911 06 09

Charles Robinson was born in Over 92 years ago. He left school aged 12 and later succeeded his father as landlord of the Admiral Vernon, then became the most successful farmer in the village. He was at various times Guardian, Parish Surveyor, tax collector, clerk of the Over Mutual Benefit Society and treasurer of the Cattle Club. He served on the first Parish Council, was a manager of the National School and life trustee of the Town Lands and Charities. He acted as executor to no less than twenty families, which testifies to the honour in which he was held. His family may justly be proud of the grand old man 11 06 09c

1911 06 30

Several skulls and other human bones were dug up when excavating for a new water supply at Swavesey and were re-buried in the churchyard. Mr J. Jillings, a hale and hearty veteran of 90, remembers that prior to the making of the present road 70 years ago the churchyard extended to within a few yards of the Manor fence. A sister and two brothers who died young were buried in that part of the churchyard. The old road to Over meandered from Hog Pasture to the western side of Mill Pits and part is still in existence. 11 06 30g

1911 08 18

An accident happened at some new houses in course of erection by Messrs Wayman Brothers opposite the Admiral Vernon Inn in Over High Street. The carpenters were preparing to put in the joists when a rough three-quarter brick accidentally fell from the scaffold and struck Mr Fred Payne, an elderly man, on the head, somewhat seriously injuring him. Mrs C.W. Hughes rendered first aid and he was conveyed home. Mr Payne, who suffered from shock and loss of blood, is progressing favourably. 11 08 18l

1911 12 08

The large building known as Porter's Barn has been pulled down at Over and the appearance of Overcote Road has entirely changed. After the boards had been knocked off the sides and the thatch removed from the roof strong chains were fastened to the centre supports, binding them securely together. To these was attached the wire rope of a traction engine. When all was in readiness a few mighty 'puffs' from the engine brought the whole structure crashing to the ground. Villa residences will be erected upon the site 11 12 08c

1912 05 03

Owing to the drought last summer there is a shortage of straw and small men are finding difficulty in getting litter for their pigs. One cold evening an Over man saw his three little piggies shivering in their strawless sty. His tender heart was touched. He rummaged amongst his stock of clothing and by means of several coats and a pair of trousers he made a warm and comfortable bed for them. Still not satisfied he obtained another coat with which he covered the porcine family. Then he retired to his own bed and slept the sleep of the just 12 05 03i

1912 06 07

An unusually violent thunderstorm broke over Longstanton with a blinding flash of lightning being followed by a tremendous clap of thunder. Near the railway station a horse belonging to Mr T Langan of Willingham was so alarmed it dropped down in the road and after getting up trembled for some time afterwards. At Hatton's Farm considerable damage was done, sixteen panes of glass being smashed by the concussion. The lightning struck the garden, made a hole in the soil and passing underneath it ploughed up two rows of potatoes. Mr W.J. Wayman of Over, who was erecting some cottages near by, took shelter in a hovel and was knocked backwards while Mrs Few was so much upset that she has since been ill 12 06 07i

1912 10 11

An Over grocer was summoned for giving a cinematograph exhibition without adequate fire appliances. Police had visited a show in the British Schoolroom and found neither wet blankets nor sand had been provided. The grocer said he'd got up the show for the benefit of a clothing club but the bioscope had been delayed on the railway and in the rush to get ready he forgot to get them out. The room would hold about 150 people with two doors that opened inwardly. Had fire occurred there was no telling what might have happened. He was fined £2. 12 10 11a

1912 11 01

A tragic and dramatic occurrence took place at a funeral at Over. On the way to the church one of the bearers suddenly fell to the ground, dropping the corner of the coffin. Thinking he had only fainted the procession continued on the way to the church, one or two friends remaining behind to render

what aid they could. However the man never regained consciousness and died within a few minutes. A platelayer on the Great Eastern Railway, he was always thought to be a strong man of perfect health. No inquest is to be held, Dr Ellis of Swavesey having certified that death was due to heart failure 12 11 01

1912 11 01

Over death wife Charles Robinson, blacksmith – 12 11 01l

1912 11 15

Occupiers of low-lying land in Swavesey will be glad to learn that important steps have been taken to lessen the damage caused by floods at the Swan Pond and High Street. Doors will be erected at Over Bridge to stop the Bedford water from flowing into Cow Fen. The six cottages at Turn Bridge, the occupants of which have to flit on the occasion of a high flood, will no longer be in danger of inundation. But four cottages at Church End and another at Ramper Road have been condemned as insanitary although there is no other housing available and so the disturbed residents will be offered the hospitality of the workhouse 12 11 15f also Trinity College farm fire caused by Pamplins traction engine driving threshing machine

1913 01 10

Over Benefit Club – doctor has formerly contracted for medical treatment at 5s per member yearly, now asked 8s.6d.

1913 02 07

Over death Ebenezer Papworth, baker

1913 02 14

County pubs closed: Cottenham Red Lion, Dry Drayton Five Bells, Girton White Horse, Harston Pemberton Arms, Over Black Horse & Sow & Pigs, Swavesey Little Rose & Willingham Black Lion Nellie Melba visits Guildhall

1913 03 14

Licensing sessions - Over Black Horse – Frederick Webster, farmer employed a number of men who used the house; the yard was a great convenience for traffic, Sow & Pigs. Harston Pemberton Arms – people left horses when went away by train. Swavesey Little Rose. Dry Drayton Five Bells. Willingham Black Lion. Cottenham Red Lion. Girton White Horse

1913 04 04

H.S. Aldred, grocer and draper at Swavesey, has sold postage stamps for 17 years, saving people a long walk to the post office. But after the village post office closed on Saturday afternoon people were told to journey to Over for stamps. When the postal authorities were told Mr Aldred was a licensed vendor of stamps he was asked to produce his licence. But it had been mislaid and he must now produce a bond of £100 for a new one. This he declines to do as he has to buy the stamps with hard cash at the same price he sells them; he gains no profit but is put to inconvenience by doing the work of the Post Office and obliging the public. Now residents of Boxworth End will have a long walk to obtain a stamp.

1913 04 23

Over telephone installed at Post Office

1913 07 18

Over garden fete

1913 07 25

Cambridgeshire licensing; includes Melbourn Tailor's Arms, Over Black Horse, Swavesey Lt Rose, Cambridge Place Three Pigeons

1913 11 14

Public houses compensation awards: Melbourn Tailors Arms, Over Sow & Pigs & Black Horse, Dry Drayton Five Bells, Gamlingay Three Horse Shoes, Elsworth Three Horse Shoes, Bourn King William IV, Girton White Horse, Cottenham Red Lion, Willingham Black Lion, Shakespeare Newmarket Rd

1914 02 13

Moses Johnson was born at Over in 1830, long before the days of compulsory schools, and felt grateful throughout his life to Mr Dennis Hall who gave him help in learning to read and write at the age of 18, finding him books and anything he required. He started farm service at Overcourt before walking to London and finding work at the East India Docks. Later he entered a coal mine where he stayed for 36 years. He saw many collieries established and much progress made 14 02 13h

1914 07 17

Over garden fete

1914 07 17

Over funeral Ridley Richardson

1914 07 17 p8

Field Day.—The Voluntary Aid Detachments from Over, Willingham, Cottenham, Swavesey and Fen Drayton held a field day at Swavesey on Saturday last. The school was turned into a field hospital and a goods shed at the station into an entraining depot. Field kitchens were erected on the Green, and nurses in uniform were busily engaged in relieving the wounded. As the cases were operated and dressed, the field ambulance wagon removed them to the entraining station. – 1914 07 24 CIPof

1914 07 31

Over Admiral Vernon landlord dies on train

1914 09 04

Over – Papworth has five out of 8 sons fighting

1914 09 11

Enlistment – Lolworth, Boxworth, Over, Bourn, Linton, Cottenham, Elsworth, Swavesey, Bottisham, Longstanton, Sawston, Comberton, Waterbeach

1914 10 30

Belgians – Waterbeach not help, Soham arrivals, Burwell, Bourn, Cottenham, Duxford, Gamlingay, Gt Eversden, Histon, Linton, Over, Sawston, Swavesey, Chatteris, Cheveley

1915 09 24

Over vicar Beckett resigns

1916 11 29

Over Exhibition pub licence not transferred as applicant of military service age – 16 11 29c

1920 08 11

Football - The annual meeting of the Histon and District Football League was held in the Histon Institute on Wednesday evening. Mr. L. R. Neaves, of Coton, occupied the chair, and was supported by the hon. secretary of the League (Mr. J. Harold Peck), and there were representatives from the following clubs: Willingham, Cottenham North End, Milton, Comberton, Histon Institute, Girton, Oakington, Cottenham, Horningsea and Coton. Apology for non-attendance was received from Over Hotspurs. Mr. John Chivers was re-elected president of the League, and the following vice-presidents were also elected, subject to their consent: Dr. J. M. King (Willingham), Mr. Arthur Rhodes (Histon),

the Rev S. T. Adams (Cambridge). Dr. Balsam (Girton). Mr. F. H. Keats (Milton), Mr. T. F. Essex (Milton), Mr. Thomas Ivatt (Cottenham), the Rev. W C. Cooke, R.D, and the Rev. R. Smith (Histon), Mr. Philip Papworth (Oakington), Mr. John Papworth (Landbeach), the Hon. E, S. Montagu, M.P. Mr. G. Rogers (Comberton), Mr. Gordon Baker (Girton), Dr. Ellis (Cottenham), Mr. B. W. Silk (Coton), and Rev. David Oliver (Over). Mr. A. T. Rogers was re-elected hon. treasurer and Mr. J. Peck auditor. Mr. J. Harold Peck was re-elected hon. secretary, and Mr. L. B. Neaves (Coton) chairman of the council. The secretary's report, which was very satisfactory, was presented by Mr. J. H. Peck. Over Hotspurs were the winners of the cup, with Coton runners-up. The treasurer's report was also presented, and showed a satisfactory balance in hand. Various alterations were made to the rules of the League and it was decided this year to present twelve medals instead of eleven as heretofore. The entrance fee to clubs this season is 10s. Entries close September 1.

1921 07 13

Public house closures – Melbourn Oak, Shepreth Half-way House; Over Black Horse, Bourn Greyhound' Cambridge Cherry Tree in Fitzroy St; Sovereign in Gold Street; Marquis of Granby in Bridge St; - 21 07 13b

1924 03 04c

An exhumation is usually associated with something grim and sinister, but that at Over churchyard was of a reverent and honourable nature. In 1916 an enforced sojourner owing to the German occupation of Northern France passed away and was buried in what his relatives regarded as foreign soil. Now the opportunity has arrived of having his remains re-interred in his own beloved country. A French coffin was delivered at Swavesey railway station nearly a fortnight ago. After the exhumation the grave was again filled in and the tombstone re-erected.

1925 04 27

Over council and Over Church of England school were visited by members of the County Education Committee. The average attendance at the first is 75 and the cost of staffing is £590, and at the Church school 41 and the cost £395. They did not require to be either financialists or educationalists to realise that it was much better to have one school in a village of that sort, but the voluntary school managers were unable to agree to the transfer of the older children to the council school. The religious education given in the council school was as good as any in the Church schools and public opinion would prevent such a state of things in the future.

1927 01 24 c

Additional County council expenditure on first-class roads is due to increased heavy traffic seriously damaging the roads. This is particularly evident when the subsoil is clay. The council is to contact the Minister of Transport for an additional grant. To widen an existing metalled carriageway one foot would cost £270 per mile. It was agreed that the road from Willingham to the county boundary near Earith, and from Over church towards Willingham should be declared to be main road.

1927 01 27

Swavesey RDC have built eight houses under the assisted scheme and sites had now been selected for six houses at Swavesey and four at Conington which was plenty for that village. Over did not require any and Boxworth and Lolworth had 16 thoroughly good cottages and there was no need for fresh houses. They had the Bourn water supply put on. The cost to supply water to Hatley St George would be about £40; were they justified in laying such a large burden on a small village with only about a dozen cottages.

1929 02 27

Cambridge Photographic Club's exhibition contains a number of local views. Mr Bellamy has eight nice photographs, the best of which is 'Farm near Barton'. Mr Watson's 'Suffolk Road' is a fine rich picture, as is also his 'Pampisford'. In the novice's section Miss Dorothy Bellamy has a well-arranged print 'Street in Chesterford' and Mr Boutflower shows a charming 'Over Ferry'

1930 02 18

We have to record the death of Mrs Richardson, wife of Mr Charles Richardson, the late sub-postmaster of Over. She was much respected in the village where her 34-year's work as sub-postmistress was greatly appreciated. Upon their retirement in 1929 villagers presented them with a silver teapot, cream jug and sugar basin, suitably inscribed as a token of their good wishes. 30 02 18a

1930 07 05

Having expended over £1,000 during the past five years in restoration of Over parish church, those in this industrious village who control the affairs of their House of Worship are still endeavouring to keep in step with the ravages of time. Their appeal is done in a charming way: a fete. There was a concert, a shooting gallery and in the evening a dance on the Vicarage lawn. 30 07 05a

1931 02 13

The Over postman, Alfred Adams, complains of the neglected state of the village byways. 50 years ago the old surveyors knew how to keep the main by-ways in repair for they had use of gravel dug from the Bare Fens which the farmers carted. But now Long Drove which led to the Boat Inn was almost impassable. The postman was supposed to be able to cycle but now had to walk and farmers grumble as they cannot get to their fields. 31 02 13h

1931 09 25

Sir – Swavesey people should be given details of the fate of their church bells. When asked, one member of the church council replied that 'he wasn't at liberty to say', yet this same person found the atmosphere of the hairdresser's shop in a neighbouring village so congenial that Over people were given full particulars. Unfortunately for him, Swavesey people were also present. The bells are to be removed to a foundry, but will not return with the same lovely tone as now. Why were not the ringers asked their opinion first? – 'Lucilius'. 31 09 25j

1931 10 30

Two new church bells were dedicated at Over to complete the octave. One is a thank-offering from F.G. Weston, vicar, while the other is in memory of Horace Bernard Woolley, vicar of Longstanton 1905-1929. It was given by Ingle Robinson, younger son of the clerk of the church from 1839-1883 and the united efforts of Over ringers. Round were then rung as an octave for the first time. 31 10 30a

1932 08 26

Sir - Swavesey RDC repaired the bridge at Webb's Hole some years ago but have for a long time been lax in looking after it. How many of the old rights of way between Swavesey and the Ouse are now available for the public. Where are the stiles? How much is left of the footbridge over Covill's drain on the right of way to Holywell Ferry and is it possible to get to Overcote across Middle Fen, as in days gone by? – Fisherman. 32 08 26j

1932 09 23

The new schoolroom adjoining the Baptist church at Over was blessed and opened following a service in the chapel, which was filled to capacity. It was something they could be truly glad about. While other churches were thinking of cutting down, they were extending. A powerful progressive church was something to rejoice in and praise God about. All they needed was a minister so that the interest did not become cold. 32 09 23f

1932 12 16

Over Town Hall was packed to hear plans to send all children over eleven years of age to Willingham School. Needless to say, no part of the scheme was received favourably by the audience, which included ladies who did not hesitate to express their opinions. The discussion was occasionally somewhat heated: the road was almost impassable at certain times and would be dangerous for the 50 children cycling to and fro twice a day. If they had to buy a meal it would be an extra charge on a family budget. 32 12 16d

1933 02 02

Alderman Oliver Papworth of Over, 'the Major', was a successful lawyer and councillor who served in the Territorials and Rifle Association. He was the founder member of several Masonic lodges but was best-known in the realms of sport. He was impervious to cold and wet and only last week when raw winds were blowing and skaters were enjoying themselves he was to be seen without an overcoat. 33 02 02a & b

1933 12 06

The Medical Officer reported on the housing conditions of Swavesey district. At Lolworth there were four cottages belonging to Clare College which needed repair, together with six in School Lane and four others known as Grape Vine Cottages which needed demolishing. In Conington two cottages, one known as Kate's Cabin were to be amalgamated and Rectory Cottage was also to be improved. At Fen Drayton three cottages opposite the school had been condemned as had two at the Green Man and two in Wallman's Lane, Swavesey. One cottage at Station Road, Over, would not last another five years. 33 12 06

1933 12 18

A crowd of 200 people saw skating races for the Duddleston Cup at Lingay Fen. The ice was not of the best and records remained intact. The winner was C.W. Horn, the National Skating Association champion, whose time was very much faster than ever previously recorded, though the race has never before been over an oval course. Runners up were R. Wyman of Stretham, G.W. Martin of Nordelph and L.B. Carter of Over. 33 12 18

1934 02 26

Over water supply results of boring operations – 34 02 26

1935 01 15

L.B. Carter the young amateur skater and cyclist of Over is proceeding to Switzerland for a fortnight's training, followed by competition as a representative of Great Britain in some international matches at Davos where all the finest speed skaters do their training. The International Ice Hockey Association is sending a team and wanted some speed skaters to join the party. The Fen Committee first approached C.W. Horn, who is in a class by himself. He was unable to accept at such short notice but Messrs Chivers allowed Carter time off work to attend. 35 01 15a

1935 02 22

The Great Ouse River Board has reconstructed the century-old locks and sluice at Over so that one of their big steam dredgers can pass through. It is now dredging a channel with a minimum depth of 3ft 6ins through to St Ives. All the locks are now in order as far as Godmanchester but it will be some time before a deep channel can be dredged all that way. A great deal of spoil has to be removed from the river. 35 02 22a

1935 05 03

The water situation at the Elsworth end of Boxworth is very unsatisfactory. Water from the pond by the roadside is practically unusable, some of the inhabitants had to go half a mile for water and a proper public supply is urgent. At Longstowe part of the parish had to depend on water from roofs. This proved inadequate and of unsatisfactory quality. The distance from some of the houses to be nearest standpipe was considerable. It should be a simple matter to carry the pipe line along the village street to the railway bridge with a standpipe provided near the houses on the Old North Road also Kirtling & Over 35 05 03c

1936 08 20

Over and Swavesey Skating Association was presented with a 50-guinea solid silver trophy to be known as The Chicago Cup for the English Grand Prix. It will be competed for by amateur skaters from all England over a course of one-and-a-half miles with three turns. The donor, Mr C.A. King, is

a native of Over who has spent many years in America. He has taken a great interest in skating throughout his life and has previous given two other Chicago Cups for local competitions. 36 08 20

1937 01 08

Tribute was paid to a water-diviner at the opening of Over's new water works. After one bore had been sunk unsuccessfully the Chairman of the Parish Council contacted Mr Charles Adams and when he was walking with his 'magic twigs' they twisted violently. The well was sunk in that position. They had originally wanted a supply from the East Hunts Water Company but this meant paying Swavesey for the use of their main and they had charged too much. The new station had two pumps which stopped and started automatically when the level in the water tower dropped. 37 01 08 & a

1939 10 31

The Pike & Eel Inn, a 16th-century property on the banks of the Gt Ouse at Overcote Ferry Needingworth, has been modernised and enlarged with a new part in complete harmony with the old. The installation of central heating, running water and other modern conveniences has been unobtrusively carried out and the interior, with its period furniture, armour and arms has remained unchanged for centuries. Legend says that Oliver Cromwell held council of war there. It stands in 11 acres of gardens with garages for six cars and has good fishing. Wild fowl and rough shooting is available together with golf, bathing, boating, tennis and hunting. 39 10 31

1939 11 30

Over possessed an obsolete Merryweather manual fire engine dated 1789 which with three lengths of unserviceable hose and eleven buckets was valued at £7 10s. Willingham's 1827 manual engine with trailer tank, ladders and hose was valued at rather more - £14. Other parish engines at Caxton, Cottenham, Horningsea, Oakington and Swavesey would be acquired by Chesterton District Council at the valuation price 39 11 30

1940 02 21

Overcote Ferry with frozen river – photo – 40 02 21

1940 11 01

Golden wedding. — Mr. and Mrs. Henry Adams, of Glover Street (Over), celebrated their golden wedding on Friday at their home, where they had spent the whole of their married life. They were married at Over Church by the Rev. Dixon in 1890. Mr. and Mrs. Adams have one son and two daughters living. The eldest son was killed in action at the Battle of Somme, 1916.

1941 03 07

Golden Wedding, — Married at Over, Cambridgeshire, on March 3, 1891, Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Golding, of St. Ives, celebrated their 50th anniversary on Monday.

1941 06 13

June 13, 1941

Longevity,—Paragraphs in the London newspapers often tell of longevity in Cambridgeshire villages, particularly those in or bordering upon the Fens (says Watchman). In January, 1910, for instance, most of the daily newspapers told of Over being notable for its old people, saying that of a population of 860 there were 76 persons between 70 and 90 years of age. A remarkable instance of contemporary longevity occurs in the history of Oakington, a village figuring in the old records as Hokington. In the year 1315, during the reign of Edward the Second, there were living in the village at the same time one person 120 years of age, two who were upwards of 100, and two who were 95 years of age. These facts were recorded in the proceedings in a tithe cause, recorded in the register of Crowland Abbey.

1941 12 05

844 lbs. Of Jam. — The Over Jam Centre organised by Mrs. W. R. Wayman had a successful season. Jam made amounted to 844 lbs., of different varieties, the majority of which was disposed of locally.

1941 12 12

Presentation -The deacons, on behalf of the Baptist Church (at Over) performed a pleasing duty in the vestry on Sunday evening, when they presented Mr. A. Barker, who has been voluntary organist for 30 years, with an organ copy of Hymns Ancient and Modern as a token of their appreciation

1943 05 28

206th Anniversary,—Good congregations attended the services in connection with the 206th anniversary of the Baptist Chapel (Over) on Sunday, when Pastor W. S. Baker, of Gurney Road, Stratford, London was the preacher.

1944 09 22

67 years wed,—Mr. and Mrs. Charles Adams (of Over) celebrated the 67th anniversary of their wedding on Tuesday. They were married at St. Mary's Church, Over, by the then vicar (Rev. W. Dixon) on Feast Tuesday, 1877. Mr. Adams is 87 and Mrs. Adams 85. Both are natives of Over. Mrs. Adams' maiden name being Sutton. They have five living children, 13 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. Both are in fairly good health.

1945 06 22

Birthday Honours. — The second section of the Birthday Honours List, published on Friday, includes the award of the O.B.E. to the following officials: Mr. J. M. McMillan Executive Officer of the Cambridgeshire W.A.E.C.; Capt. C. O Groom, hon secretary of the Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Help Society for the Isle of Ely and Cambridge; Mr. McMillan was trained in Edinburgh, where he took a B.Sc. in Agriculture. He came to Cambridge in 1930 as organiser of Agricultural Education for the County Council, and at the beginning of the war was seconded to the W.A.E.C. He has been concerned to a large extent with fenland reclamation and the construction of concrete roads in the fens at Swaffham Prior, Burwell, Isleham, Over and Cottenham. The King and Queen saw some of the work when they visited Swaffham and Burwell in June, 1942. Capt. Groom is a retired Regular Army officer, living, at Wisbech, and takes a keen interest in the ex-Servicemen. He is president of the Workmen's Club and the Institute of Wisbech, and is also a director of Groom Bros. Ltd., who are farmers in the district.

1947 03 18

Hundreds of men and women, troops and German prisoners among them who worked throughout last night are still pitting their efforts against the biggest flood threat of all time. The breach at Over today widened to over 20 yards during the night and at about 1 o'clock this afternoon water began to pour over the top of the Old West. River bank at Haddenham. The break at Lt Thetford yesterday afternoon flooded over 2,000 acres.

1947 03 22

"Operation Neptune", the scheme to seal the great gap in the banks of the River Ouse near Over by using Neptune amphibians began this afternoon. Nine Neptunes - weighing anything between 37 and 40 tons each – are being employed, as well as submarine nets and sandbags. One has its nose against the bank several yards from the breach and a number of others are in a field about half a mile away on the other side of the river. They will be brought to the gap, line up across the breach and netting will be dropped from them. Tarpaulins will be fastened over the netting and weighted down with sandbags.

1947 03 24

Under the glare of "artificial moonlight" "Operation Neptune" was successfully put into effect last night. Nine great amphibian tanks have sealed the breach in the River Ouse at Over. It was the first of its kind ever to be performed in England. The whole area was reminiscent of wartime, crowded with duffle-coated mud-caked troops many of them tired out but still cheerful enough to sing, and military equipment of every description. The operation was due to start at 5 o'clock but owing to technical hitches it was late evening before everything was ready to commence

1947 07 11

The Great Ouse Catchment Board yesterday resolved unanimously that the construction of the relief channel from Denver to St Germans be proceeded with as soon as possible; that the work of preparing the plans for the cut-off channel up to the River Lark be completed at once; that the work in the rivers above Denver Sluice be modified on the basis of the construction of the cut-off channel and that a fifty years loan be arranged. Another decision was that the Over barrier bank be heightened by three feet at a cost of £40,000.

1947 08 22

An unusually early harvest in ideal weather, particularly for combines - but one with disappointingly low yields. That, in brief, sums up the situation in Cambridgeshire where a certain amount of new corn is now on the market. Yields of wheat generally are very poor, averaging only about four sacks an acre, compared with twelve last year. The position in East Anglia generally is worse than in the rest of the country owing to the drought. Land which was lightly-flooded around Stretham, Waterbeach and Over has yielded crops, some better than the average because of the moisture which the dry land lacked

1947 10 23

Fen Drayton's 97-years-old oldest inhabitant and two Darby-and Joan old-age pensioners were among the 98 victims of last Spring's flooding in the village who found themselves the possessors of several months' extra rations of butter and lard, as well as tins of sausage meat and dried milk. The food was the gift of the Mombasa Thank Offering to Britain Fund, whose local daily paper "The Mombasa Times" is edited by a former member of the "Cambridge Daily News" staff, Mr Ronald Roper. Similar distributions have been made at Willingham, Swavesey, Over and other places in the affected area

1948 05 14

Constant flooding has resulted in the decay of the foundations of the Boat Inn at Brownhill Staunch, Over, and the building is breaking up. It was suggested to the Ouse Catchment Board that the existing premises should be demolished and another house erected nearby where it would be protected by the Barrier Bank, and that a hut be placed on the site of "The Boat" for the use of the sluice-keeper

1949 05 02

A toenail she had not cut for five years led to the death from tetanus of a 73-year-old lady of Over. The nail had grown right round the toe into the skin underneath it. Her son said he did all he could to persuade his mother to have proper attention, but she was quite independent and declined the advice. She had had a bad toenail for about 17 years but would not have it removed

1949 11 28

Over Fen Committee are vigorously building up their case to present to the Land Commission in order to prevent Over and Bare fens being taken over by the Government. To illustrate what could happen Mr Mealling said he bought a smallholding near Caxton Gibbet ten years ago. As a war gesture he allowed it to be cultivated by the Government, who had later extended this War Emergency Act to 1950. "My land was taken over and ever since I have seen men skim the cream off my land while I sit there wanting a living", he said. The Vicar said there were 80 fields in Bare Fen of about 3 ½ acres which was extremely valuable to the owners and occupiers, as it provided out-wintering for stock for which there was no other accommodation. If it is taken and blocked there are going to be men here who cannot graze or stock cattle

1951 01 12

Major Marshall Nixon, deputy engineer to Mr W.E. Doran at the Great Ouse Catchment Board, was the man who, in the 1947 floods, suggested sealing the Over breach with military amphibious load-carriers. His suggestion proved highly success and earned him the Institute of Civil Engineers' 25-

guinea ingenuity prize for 1948. He was made works engineer during the big rehabilitation and damage repair works following the floods.

1951 04 04

The pros and cons of a proposal to establish a greyhound race track on land off the Landbeach Road, Milton were argued before a Planning inspector. The applicant said greyhound racing is not a particularly offensive form of sport and it might be pleasant for local inhabitants to have some sort of recreation on the spot. There would be 104 evening meetings per year with floodlighting in the winter. The County Council said it would be difficult to refuse permission to expand in other directions, such as speedway racing. The main road was one of the busiest in the county carrying an average of 145 vehicles an hour. Mr J.R. Ginn (Over) said he was one of the largest breeders of greyhounds in the county & we badly need a track for Cambs.

1951 05 31

The Vicar of Over send a letter alleging that the Cambridgeshire Agricultural Executive Committee was not cultivating properly requisitioned portions of Over fen. On Monday heavy tackle began ploughing the land – and he sent another letter enclosing a sample of self-sown barley which they are ploughing with heavy tackle. “Had I known this was the planned economy of the AEC I would have asked permission to graze 100 sheep on it, but apparently in the interests of maximum efficiency it must go under”, he said

1951 06 05

Portions of Over fen which so far are uncropped sprouted a “harvest” of notices during the night. It is held under requisition by the Cambridgeshire Agricultural Executive Committee. At the corner of Sharp’s Drove was the wording, “To the docks”. This referred to 12 acres of that plant. Where the AEC has recently been ploughing-in self-sown barley was the wording “In the interests of colonial development 2ft 6 inches goes ‘down under’”

1951 07 13

A petition has been sent to the King by the Vicar of Over about the hardship caused to owners of agricultural land at Over fen, held under requisition by the Cambridgeshire Agricultural Executive Committee which was not being properly cultivated. “My people have been deprived of their land for years on the grounds that they were not making the best use of the land for agriculture”. They have been brought before Agricultural Land Tribunals and won their cases and yet have no redress.

1952 08 20

Over Fen is not to be compulsorily acquired by the Ministry of Agriculture after all. The Agricultural Land commission had recommended the purchase of 535 acres to ensure maximum food production but they now need to restrict Government expenditure and will not proceed. The news is a great victory for the Vicar of Over who has led the fight against acquisition. On 2,050 acres of Lakenheath Fen, also recommended for purchase, the Minister say much would revert to its former derelict state if derequisitioned, yet the financial stringency prevents purchase now.

1952 09 10

Two Meteor jet aircraft collided in mid-air over Over. One of the pilots landed near the church & the other near the Pike and Eel public house. The landlady observed: “We often have pilots calling here – but not by parachute”. The electricity supply was cut when one of the planes struck an electric cable in Mow Fen, Swavesey. The other fell in a meadow behind Station Road, Over. Firemen put out magnesium flames which broke out in one of the engines after its impact on hitting the ground. The two aircraft were on a training flight from R.A.F. Station, Oakington

1953 01 07

The Vicar of Over sprang a surprise on Sunday night when he announced that he had tendered his resignation. “My chief reasons are financial and family”, he told his congregation. His salary had been raised to £500 but this is dependent on the parish meeting its quota. “Over could have raised this had

the parish wished to do so, but there is no will to make the exertion. If a parish which is in a position to find the money to pay a share of its priest's stipend refuses to do so, it should not have the services of a full-time priest", he said. "In the old days two maids and a gardener were employed to tend the vicarage. I am not prepared to go on seeing my wife trying to do the work of mistress of the house, mother and two maids, and as a reward suffer the privations of grinding poverty."

1954 05 01

Three farmers from Swaffham Prior Fen, who have for five years been living and trying to farm under the threat of Government acquisition of their land have been reprieved. Altogether 588 acres were involved but the Minister of Agriculture has decided only to acquire 312 acres at Hundred Acre Farm, Burwell Fen. The Rev Eric Marsh, formerly Vicar of Over urged the Ministry to speed up such decisions: no man was going to develop his land or improve it if he thought it would be taken from him. Mr Harold Sennitt, whose family has farmed in the district since 1927, had been threatened with the loss of 39 of the 45 acres of root crops he farms, Leonard Folkes five acres and Ernest Garner 90.

1954 09 14

Flashing indicator lights on motor cars are no a new idea. They were invented and patented in 1922 by Mr Harold Wheeler son of the Over schoolmaster A.G. Wheeler. When he bought his first car he felt the need for an efficient signaller and flashing lights seemed to be the answer. The invention was perfected, patented and submitted to the public carriage office of New Scotland Yard. It was hailed as 'ingenious but impractical' and legislation would be needed before it could be used. He had several enquiries from the Continent but finally removed the gadget and stored it away in a cupboard. Now flashing indicators have arrived from America but his patent has run out.

1955 12 15

An 18½ lb female pike was landed from the Ouse near Over Staunton. It was taken on live bait by Bert Ball of Sandy and broke his rod as it was being landed. When it was deposited on the bank a large eel popped out of its mouth. It was the largest from this stretch of water for many years, some say the best since a 20-pounder was landed by Mr Cooke in 1910. 55 12 15a

1958 10 08

Messrs F.A. Burling, builders of High Street Over, told an Inquiry he had planning permission to replace an out-of-date workshop with another across the road. Then in November 1957 the old building was gutted by fire and he was allowed to enlarge the new one. No residents had objected. But then the Planners stopped him installing his machinery in it, saying it was a residential area. 58 10 08

1960 12 02

A love of windmills has led Graham Wilson to buy the tower mill at Over. Built about 100 years ago, it was in regular use until the 1930s and the interior machinery is still in working order. Graham has plans for restoring the roof-cap and the great transverse beam that carries the sails. He is a qualified miller and sees no reason why it should not come into use again for grinding farmers' corn. The Council for the Preservation of Rural England has made a grant of £20 towards the project 60 12 02a

1964 07 10

Water may be let into the Old West River without detrimental effect on water levels or danger to agricultural land. With dredging it is the only hope of preserving it so that the public could enjoy its fishing, boating and other amenities. New disposal works at Over would eliminate existing discharges of unpurified sewage but future development would more than double the amount of effluent entering the river and some fresh water should be admitted through Hermitage Sluice. But the height of the river was only just below the level of the washes and if more water were let through there would be trouble halfway down the river 64 07 10c

1966 11 30

New GPO mast towers over windmill at Over – 66 11 30

1972 03 04

Residents at Over have been saved a 1/2p [0.5 pence] rate rise through the efforts of the village's Young Wives Club disclosed the chairman of the Over Parish Council, Mr Albert Barker. He said the Over Young Wives Club had bought a children's slide for the village from their fund raising activities. "They have saved not only the young people but the old age pensioners as well, in fact all the villagers a 1/2p rate. It is a very worthy effort". The £150 slide is to be erected on the recreation ground. About 1,250 residents of Over will benefit from the fund raising activities of the Young Wives Club

1974 03 20

A loyal 94-year-old patron of a century-old Cambridgeshire pub has vowed to give up beer drinking now that the Golden Lion in Over has closed. Mr Ernest Few, of Fen End, lifted his first pint there as a lad of 16, which makes him the oldest customer. For his patronage he received a tankard at the closing down party. However it seems he will have little use for it. "You ask me what I'll do when the Golden Lion closes. Blowed if I'm going to walk after the stuff. Just have to buy a tin of cocoa, that's all"

1974 09 10

Anglian Water Authority have asked Souths Cambs district council to refuse permission for any new development and severely restrict building in a further 19 because of the overloading of the sewage treatment works., Milton, whose drains lead into the Cambridge works has suffered from a development embargo for the last four years. It is now joined by Shelford, Girton, Histon and Fen Ditton where a complete ban on development is requested. At Over, Gamlingay and Bassingbourn permission will only be given to one-building application. All of these sewage works have been badly overloaded for some time but the cuts in public spending have prevented AWA from going ahead with extension schemes

1974 10 12

Over parish council called a meeting to allow residents to voice their opinions on proposed development of the village. The mood was against a plan for the Doles area which included 57 houses and ten shops. A speaker said: "We first want to put in sewers for the rest of the village before we start to put in homes and shops". Another said: "We do not want this scheme, or any other scheme, in this village"

1974 11 22 c

Customers at two riverside pubs near Needingworth found it was a case of "water, water everywhere, but a not a drop to drink" unless they came equipped with wellingtons to breach the floods. At The Pike & Eel, which was marooned on an island, staff helped customers across a relief route of up-turned crates. As the crates gradually became submerged customers had to be rowed to the pub in a rubber dinghy. At Overcote the floods stretched nearly 200 yards from the normal river edge & the normal footpath to the Ferry Boat lay eight inches under water.

1976 12 29

Dozens of people armed with forks and spades descended upon a potato field at Over for easy pickings. The recent wet weather and the promise of sharp frosts promoted a local farmer, Mr Brian Burling, to make potato lovers an offer they couldn't refuse. They were given the chance of digging as many as they could at the rate of £6 a row, each row concealing about one hundredweight of potatoes. This could amount to selling potatoes at 5p a pound; in the village shop they cost 13p. Not all the pickers were locals. Some had travelled from Cambridge and Royston. Some found that the digging was not only kind on their pockets but also helped to work off the Christmas pudding and turkey. Mr Burling hopes that within six days about 20 acres, with 200 tons of spuds, will be cleared.

1979 07 19

Headmaster Ted Austin spent all last Saturday gardening at his Over home – the first Saturday this year he's had free from his voluntary work. He has been a member of the English Schools Football

Association's ruling body for eight years and is now its Chairman. Headmaster at Stetchworth School for the past 12 years and a teacher since before the war, Austin knows he's in for a hectic 12 months. He will have to preside over two Wembley internationals for the English Schools team matches in Holland and West Germany, two coaching courses and 10 international coaching weekends. "You'd better ask my wife how much time it takes up – it does involve a tremendous amount of work", he said.

1979 09 05

When councillors turned down plans for a 71-house estate at The Doles, Over, the developer appealed to the Minister and was awarded costs. The problem is continual financial pressure to build new houses in the area. It makes sites too attractive for their owners to resist selling them; it makes housing too dear for ordinary people to contemplate buying. Future pressure will come from the new M11 motorway, the likely development of Stansted Airport and the electrification of the railway line to London. "We have reached the state when it will be difficult to resist complete urbanisation", one councillor said. "Over was one of the prettiest fen villages. Now I am afraid that other villages may be raped as is has been."

1979 11 23

Ducks have returned to the village ponds at Over after an absence of several years, thanks to the Parish Council. And despite an initial setback when two of the ducks were killed by a prowling fox the council hope the remaining brown Muscovys on Duce's & Sandpit Ponds will take a liking to their new environment. The original duck population was decimated as they were run over by cars while crossing the main road to be fed by a resident on the other side. Often they would sit in the middle of the road and not budge. But the problem of starving ducks may return, as they will have to be fed, just like their predecessors.

1980 03 10

A new pub has opened at Over; before last summer the building was just a tumbledown farm hand's cottage, now it is the Poplar Farm Inn. The whole place was gutted with new ceilings and furniture installed by the landlord and a couple of lads from the village. None had any experience in the building trade and learned as they went along. In the week it has been open the pub has been packed out every night and there are plans to introduce bar snacks and a restaurant. 80 03 10

1983 05 21

Villages around Cambridge are reeling from flooding – more than a foot deep in places – which swept through their homes after torrential rain smashed down onto already waterlogged ground. Houses were under water over a massive area, including the villages of Croxton and Over. Swavesey baker, Roger Godfrey, was watching the cup final when he realised water was coming in under his front door, with four inches covering his floor at one stage. 83 05 21 p1

1984 01 13

Thousands of homes were without electricity when overnight storms brought down power lines all over Cambridgeshire. Eighteen villagers were hit by power cuts and two – Shepreth and Coton – were cut off completely. On the roads cyclists were blown over, cars and lorries swept on to verges and on the A10 at Waterbeach one lorry was blown on to its side. Hundreds of commuters were late for work when felled trees blocked roads. A house at Chapman Way, Over, was wrecked when a 60 foot ash tree crashed through the roof. 84 01 13 p1

1984 06 13

A move to combine the parishes of Histon and Impington has been rejected by the Environment Secretary. Other moves to move Comberton Village College from Thriplow parish, to move Little Thriplow into Fowlmere and change boundaries between Over/Swavesey have also been turned down. But a small piece of farmland on the Little Abington and Babraham border has been agreed. 84 06 13

1984 07 03

Cattell's mill in Willingham closed down in 1967 and although the machinery is in tip-top condition, the same cannot be said of the wooden exterior. Now 79-year-old former millwright, Ray Cattell plans to restore it with the help of Graham Wilson from Over. His father ran the flour milling business until the First World War, when he switched to milling grain for livestock. The mill needs four new sails – one was destroyed after lightning struck it five years ago. 84 07 03

1985 01 11

Dinosaur Publications was formed at Over 14 years ago by Miss Althea Braithwaite. It has gone from strength to strength, producing children's books. Her most popular creation was Desmond the Dinosaur and books about him won export orders to America and Holland. Now one of Cambridge's most successful publishing companies, it is being bought by the publishing giant, Collins. 85 01 11 & a

1985 06 21

Cambridgeshire County Council is to buy Mare Fen at Swavesey to conserve it as a breeding ground for rare birds, stopping a drainage scheme which threatened to destroy the nationally-famous wet grazing meadows. The controversy started five years ago when the Anglian Water Authority announced a scheme to prevent frequent flooding in Swavesey, Over and Willingham. This would have involved ploughing Mare Fen up for cereal growing. Now it will be left out of the scheme without affecting the rest. 85 06 21

1987 07 30

The tumble-down windmill at Wicken is being restored to its former glory thanks to a group of dedicated enthusiasts. They have sunk thousands of pounds into a six-year project to bring it back to working condition. First they must rebuild the three wooden floors which have been eaten away by woodworm and dry rot. The mill was worked by sails until the late 1930's when they were considered dangerous but much of the original machinery is still in place. A new aluminium cap was put on in 1971 by Chris Wilson, the owner of Over mill who is assisting with the project 87 07 30a